1	FOR THE EASTERN	S DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
2	NORTHER	RN DIVISION
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	. Case No. 11-20574
4	Plaintiff,	•
5	v.	Bay City, Michigan September 6, 2012
6	JEFFREY PAUL SCHUETT,	. September 0, 2012
7	Defendant.	. (Hon. Thomas L. Ludington)
8		•
9		
10	GUII	TY PLEA
11		BLE CHARLES E. BINDER MAGISTRATE JUDGE
12	APPEARANCES:	
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23		
24	Proceedings recorded by digital sound recording; transcript	
25	produced by transcription serv	vice

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1	Bay City, Michigan
2	Thursday, September 6, 2012
3	At about 10:14 A.M.
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5	(Call to order of the court)
6	THE COURT: This is the case of United States
7	versus Jeffrey Schuett, Case Number 11-20574.
8	The defendant is present with counsel.
9	I have received a Consent to Enter Guilty Plea
10	signed by the defendant and all counsel, an Order of
11	Reference for the Taking of a Plea from United States
12	District Judge Ludington, and a Rule 11 Plea Agreement in the
13	matter.
14	May I, first of all, have defense counsel's
15	appearance?
16	MS. GRACEY: Yes. Good morning, your Honor.
17	Judith Gracey on behalf of Mr. Schuett, who stands to my
18	right.
19	THE COURT: Thank you.
20	You are Jeffrey Schuett. Is that correct?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
22	THE COURT: From these documents, it appears that
23	you wish to enter a plea of guilty to some charges; and from
24	this consent, it appears that you're willing to waive the
25	right that to have this plea taken and considered by the

United States District Judge. You're willing to have this 1 plea taken and considered by me today. Is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Now, it appears that you signed this on 4 a couple of occasions; most recent was late last month. 5 you remember signing this consent? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Do you stand by what you signed at that 8 time? 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor. 10 11 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Gracey, any objection to my swearing the 12 defendant? 13 MS. GRACEY: No, Judge, but before the Court 14 begins, I just want to make a record as it relates to 1.5 Mr. Schuett's decision to want to enter a plea of guilty to 16 the Rule 11 Plea Agreement. 17 18 Negotiations have been ongoing between myself and the assistant U.S. attorney regarding this matter. 19 presented to Mr. Schuett some time ago, as the Court had 20 already noted -- back in January of 2012, there was a Rule 11 21 that was submitted, and Mr. Schuett was considering that 22 Rule 11 but at that time did decide that he would reject and 23 not take that offer of the Rule 11 at that time. 24

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Since then or subsequent to that, Mr. Schuett and I

have had continuous discussions regarding the disposition of
this case as well as a suppression hearing that was held, I

believe it was three days, before Judge Ludington.

Judge Ludington did render an opinion denying the motion to
suppress in this matter. Mr. Schuett, upon receiving that,
had concerns and wanted to perhaps attempt to try and
preserve his right to appeal as it related to the ruling on
the Rule -- on the suppression hearing.

We had further discussions, both in writing, in person, and on -- on the phone as late as August 29th, 2012, as the Court has already noted, when he signed the consent to have this matter held to enter the guilty plea before your Honor, a United States Magistrate Judge.

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We have discussed this matter -- Mr. Schuett and myself -- and I then had further negotiations with Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Wininger on this matter, and there was a resolution that was agreed upon by Mr. Schuett.

I just want the record to be clear. I know that the Rule 11 will bear that out, but I want the record to be clear and Mr. Schuett to be clear on -- on the record that he understands that we had asked the U.S. Attorney's Office to enter into a Rule 11 Plea Agreement which preserved Mr. Schuett's right to appeal. However, that was rejected by the United States Attorney's Office. However, the Rule 11 as we had had it originally was amended, and there were

additional -- there was additional information that was placed in the Rule 11.

Mr. Schuett has his copy of the proposed Rule 11 in this matter that he has executed, and I just want the record to be clear, as well as Mr. Schuett on the record, that you understand, Mr. Schuett, that the U.S. Attorney's Office and I did communicate that with you sometime on -- on August the 29th when we were last in court, that in fact that was rejected, and you understand by signing this Rule 11 -- and the magistrate will go over the pertinent parts of the Rule 11 with you -- that you understand that that is not preserved, and once you enter into this Rule 11, that you will not have the right to appeal as it relates to the suppression hearing. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

MS. GRACEY: And we've talked about this on numerous occasions. Is that correct?

THE DEFENDANT: That is correct.

MS. GRACEY: And you do understand that the only way that you could have possibly appealed the ruling as it related to Judge Ludington's opinion regarding the suppression hearing would be to take this matter to trial. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

MS. GRACEY: However, you've opted -- after

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considering all of the ramifications, that you've opted not to go to trial on this matter. Is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: That is correct. MS. GRACEY: And it is your decision and you're doing it freely and voluntarily. Is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: I am. MS. GRACEY: And the added information regarding the Rule 11 where the government would agree to recommend that your sentence run concurrent with your state court sentence, your parole violation -- you understand that that was added to your Rule 11. THE DEFENDANT: I do. MS. GRACEY: Okay. So, Judge, I just wanted that to be clear for Mr. Schuett because I know that that's been an -- an ongoing issue, and I wanted to make sure that he was clear before your Honor, that I am prepared to go to trial on this matter, but based on his decision as well as my counsel, that this would appear to be the best option for him. And is that correct, Mr. Schuett? THE DEFENDANT: That is correct. MS. GRACEY: With that being said, Judge, I am ready for the Court to swear my client in. THE COURT: All right. Very well. Mr. Schuett, would you raise your right hand,

please? 1 2 (At about 10:21 A.M.) JEFFREY PAUL SCHUETT, DEFENDANT, SWORN 3 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 4 **EXAMINATION** 5 BY THE COURT: 6 May I have your full name for the record, please? 7 Jeffrey Paul Schuett. 8 9 How old are you? Thirty-one. 10 Α. How far have you gotten in school? 11 I have college. Α. 12 13 All right. Have you -- have you had any trouble understanding all the conversations and documents and all of 14 that that have gone back and forth between you and 1.5 Ms. Gracey? 16 No, I have not. 17 18 Q. All right. Are you under the influence of any medications or 19 anything that would give you trouble in understanding what's 20 going on today? 21 No, I am not. 22 Are you under the care of a doctor for any medical 23 conditions that would have an impact on your ability to 24

understand today's proceeding?

- 1 | A. No, I do not.
  - $\|Q.\|$  All right.
- THE COURT: Counsel, the record should reflect,

  then, my view that the defendant, first of all, is competent

  to tender a plea. Do the attorneys agree?
  - MS. GRACEY: Yes, your Honor.
- 7 MS. DILL: Yes, sir.
- 8 THE COURT: All right.
- 9 BY THE COURT:

- 10 | Q. Mr. Schuett, you are charged in Count One of an
- 11 | indictment with felon in possession of a -- previously
- 12 | convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Do you
- 13 | understand this charge?
- 14 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 15  $\parallel$  Q. The charge is a -- a felony. The maximum penalties are
- 16 | at least fifteen years of imprisonment with as much as life
- 17 | imprisonment followed by as much as five years of supervised
- 18 | release, a form of probation, and you could face fines of up
- 19 | to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Do you understand
- 20 | that?
- 21 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 22 Q. Now, Ms. Gracey has been representing you throughout, it
- 23 | sounds like.
- 24 | A. Yes, sir.
- 25 | Q. Okay. It's pretty clear that you and she have had

- multiple conversations about the case. 1
  - Yes, your Honor.
  - Are you satisfied with her advice and with her service?
- Yes, I am, your Honor.
- Good. 5
- As you likely know, if your guilty plea is 6 accepted, you will be giving up many important rights, and --7 and it is clear to me that Ms. Gracey explained to you the 9 fact that everyone charged with an offense has the right to a trial to determine if in fact they are guilty, and this Rule 10 11 agreement tells me that you're willing to give up your 11 right to have a trial and everything having to do with a 12 trial. Do you understand this?
- Yes, I do, your Honor. 14
- Specifically, you're giving up your right to plead not 15 guilty and have a trial in the first place. 16
- understand this? 17

- 18 Yes, I do, your Honor.
- You're giving up your right at a trial to be presumed 19 innocent and your right to require that the government prove 20 you guilty and guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and guilty of 21 every element -- that is, every part -- of the charge. 22 you understand this?
- Yes, I do, your Honor. 24
- You're giving up your right through Ms. Gracey to 25

- 1 | question and cross-examine and probe and test the witnesses
- 2 | the government would bring against you. Do you understand
- 3 | this?
- $4 \parallel A$ . Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 5 | Q. You're giving up your right to have the Court order
- 6 | witnesses that you might need for your defense to come
- 7 | forward and testify. Do you understand this?
- $8 \mid \mid A$ . Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 9 Q. You're also waiving your right to remain silent during a
- 10 | trial and not have your silence used against you, because in
- 11 | this case there would be no trial. Do you understand this?
- 12 | A. Yes, I do.
- 13 | Q. All right.
- 14 At the same time, you're waiving your right to
- 15 | testify at a trial if you wanted to testify, and if you did
- 16 | testify, your testimony would be weighed with all the other
- 17 | evidence. Do you understand this?
- 18 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 19  $\|Q$ . And lastly, you are waiving your right -- your separate
- 20 | right to have a lawyer for the trial, and if you could not
- 21 | afford one, one would be appointed for you at government
- 22 | expense. Do you understand this?
- 23 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 24  $\parallel$ Q. Now, in addition to your rights having to do with a
- 25 | trial, it is entirely likely that as a result of this plea,

- you will lose what we call civil rights: the right to hold public office, the right to serve on a jury; if you are sent to jail, you would lose the right to vote while you're in jail, and there is no doubt in this case that you will lose the right to ever legally be around firearms again. Do you understand that?
- Yes, I do, your Honor.
- Having in mind, then, both the trial rights and the civil rights that we've talked about, you're willing to give them up as part of this plea agreement. Is that right? 10
- 11 Yes, it is, your Honor.
- Now, your -- I presume that your willingness to enter a 12 plea is because of what's in here in this Rule 11 agreement. 13
- Am I right? 14

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- Yes, your Honor. Α. 1.5
- All right. 16 0.
  - THE COURT: Ms. Dill, would you be so kind as to summarize the agreement for the record, please?
- MS. DILL: Yes, your Honor. 19
  - Mr. Schuett will enter a plea of guilty to the sole count of the indictment, which charges him with being a felon in possession of firearm.
  - The elements are that prior to the date alleged in the indictment, Defendant was convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. On or about

the date alleged in the indictment, Defendant knowingly possessed the firearm described in the indictment, and that firearm possessed was in and affecting interstate commerce.

The parties agree to the factual basis provided on page two of the Rule 11 agreement, as shown by Defendant's signature on the -- the Rule 11 agreement itself.

Sentencing guidelines are as follows: Defendant's guideline range is determined to be one hundred and eighty to two hundred and ten months. We are recommending that Defendant be -- receive a total of three acceptance-of-responsibility points. And regarding the imprisonment, except as provided in the next sentence, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), the sentence of imprisonment in this case may not exceed the bottom end of the guideline range as determined by paragraph 2B of this agreement, which is a hundred and eighty-eight months. However, the Court must impose a sentence of imprisonment on Count One of at least fifteen years, because in this case Defendant was deemed to be an armed career criminal.

A term of supervised release, if imposed, follows the term of imprisonment. The Court may impose any term of supervised release up to the statutory maximum term, which in this case is five years.

Defendant will pay a special assessment of a hundred dollars, and the Court may impose a fine of up to two

hundred and fifty thousand.

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Defendant agrees to forfeit the firearm named in the indictment.

If the Court accepts this agreement, the government will not bring additional charges against Defendant based on the conduct reflected in the attached worksheets.

If the sentence imposed does not exceed the maximum allowed by Part 3 of this agreement, Defendant waives the right to appeal his conviction or sentence on any grounds.

If the sentence imposed is within the guideline range determined by Paragraph 2B, the government agrees not to appeal the sentence but retains its right to appeal any sentence below that range.

Defendant understands that defendants generally have a right to attack their convictions and sentences by filing post-conviction motions, petitions, or independent civil actions. As part of this agreement, however, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives that right and agrees not contest his conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including but not limited to any proceeding under 28 U.S.C. 2255.

Your Honor, there is, obviously, more in this Rule
11 Plea Agreement, but I believe that encompasses the main
terms.

THE COURT: All right. Very well.

Ms. Gracey, with regard to the Rule 11 agreement, 1 anything more you'd wish to add for the record? 2 3 MS. GRACEY: Just one question. I believe Ms. Dill misspoke when she said the guideline range being not to exceed a hundred and eighty-eight; it's actually one hundred 5 and eighty months. 6 MS. DILL: That's right. 7 THE COURT: All right. 8 9 MS. DILL: I'm sorry about that. MS. GRACEY: And also, it's stated in the Rule 11 10 but I want the record to reflect that also the government is 11 not -- is recommending that Mr. Schuett receive time credit 12 -- or, I -- let's put it this way, that the sentence should 13 run concurrently with the State of Michigan parole violation 14 sentence, and they agree to that as well. 15 THE COURT: Any disagreement with that, Ms. Dill? 16 MS. DILL: No, your Honor. 17 THE COURT: All right. Very well. 18 MS. GRACEY: Other than that, Judge, I think the --19 those are the pertinent parts that have been stated on the 20 record. 21 THE COURT: All right. 22 **EXAMINATION CONTINUING** 23 BY THE COURT: 24 Mr. Schuett, is this your understanding of the 25

- 1 | agreement?
- 2  $\|$ A. Yes, it is, your Honor.
- | Q. Did you hear anything from the assistant U.S. attorney
- 4 | just now that was different than your understanding?
- $5 \parallel A$ . No, sir.
- 6 Q. Have you been promised by the Court or by your lawyer or
- 7 | the lawyer for the government that you will be put on
- 8 | probation or receive a specific sentence in return for the
- 9 || guilty plea?
- 10 A. Just that what's in the -- the plea agreement, your
- 11 | Honor.
- 12 | Q. All right. In other words, nobody has promised you that
- 13 you're going to get put on probation.
- 14 A. No, your Honor.
- 15  $\|Q$ . Nobody has promised you that you will definitely get
- 16 | Sentence X, Y, Z. Correct?
- 17 | A. No, your Honor.
- 18 ||Q. All right. Have -- has anybody promised you anything
- 19 | that isn't in here in the Rule 11?
- 20 | A. No, sir.
- $21 \parallel Q$ . Okay. Has anybody used force or threats, violence to
- 22 | try and make you plead guilty?
- 23 | A. No, sir.
- 24 ||Q. All right.
- 25 These plea agreements are always complicated, got a

lot of big words and statutes and court rules and all of that. I need to boil down a couple of the key features to make sure that you understand the consequences of your plea, because, of course, with this plea you're admitting criminal responsibility for this charge, and the first thing has to do with an appeal.

We've already talked about aspects of it, but I want to make sure that you understand that if you are sentenced within the range that's said here and particularly the minimum that's required by law, you will not be able to appeal successfully what happens to you, ever. Do you understand that?

A. Yes, your Honor.

- Q. You won't be able to appeal the sentence that you're given or the decision on this motion to suppress that was argued before Judge Ludington. Do you understand that?
- A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- Q. You won't be able to appeal it successfully right after your sentence, and you will not be able to successfully appeal later in what's called a collateral attack. The process is also called habeas corpus. It's also called a motion to vacate the sentence. Any way you name it, those will not be successful under this agreement. Do you understand that?
- A. Yes, I do, your Honor.

 $\|Q$ . All right.

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Now, there's also been discussion about the sentencing guidelines here and how they impact with the statutory minimum sentence that's -- that's required, but what I want to make sure you understand is that all of this -- all these calculations of sentencing guideline ranges and applications of credits and things of that nature are recommendations to Judge Ludington. Do you understand that?

- 9 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- Q. They do not bind him by law. He can do what's called depart. He can do something different. Do you understand that?
- 13 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- Q. Okay. So at the risk of repetition, as of today nobody knows what your actual sentence will be. Do you understand that?
- 17 | A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 18 | Q. Okay. Are you pleading guilty voluntarily?
- 19 | A. Yes, I am.
- 20 Q. This is an act of your own free will.
- 21 | A. Yes, your Honor.
- Q. Okay. Tell me in your own words what you did that makes
  you believe you're guilty of this charge of -- of felon in
  possession of firearms.
- 25 | A. BAYANET, the narcotics enforcement team in Saginaw,

- 1 approached me, patted me down, and found a handgun in my 2 pocket.
- Q. Okay. Now, it says here in the Rule 11 agreement that this was a Walther semiautomatic pistol. Is that right?
- $5 \parallel A$ . Yes, it was, your Honor.
- 6 ||Q. And it says here that you agree with the government that
- 7 | this pistol was made outside of Michigan and brought in --
- 8 || into Michigan across state lines. Is that right?
- 9 A. According to the ATF investigation, it is, your Honor.
- 10 Q. Okay. You don't disagree with that.
- 11 A. No, sir.
- 12 | Q. Okay.
- Now, it also says here that in 2000 -- in October of 2000, you were charged with fleeing and eluding a police officer in the third degree, and you were convicted and sentenced on that charge. Is that right?
- 17 || A. That is correct, sir.
- Q. Okay. And then later in that same month, October of 2000, you were arrested -- you were charged, rather, with assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than
- 21 murder, and you were also convicted and sentenced on that
- 22 | charge. Is that right?
- 23 | A. That is correct, sir.
- Q. Okay. And then in September of 2001, you were convicted
- 25 of unarmed robbery and -- and apparently sentenced on that

- 1 | charge. Am I correct?
- $\mathbb{P} \mid A$ . Yes, I was, your Honor.
- 3  $\|Q$ . Okay. And it says here that all of these charges are
- 4  $\parallel$  felonies within the meaning of the criminal code. Do you
- 5 | understand that?
- $6 \parallel A$ . I do, sir.
- 7 ||Q.|| Do you -- do you agree with that?
- 8 | A. I do agree with that, your Honor.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now, those convictions, according to the
- 10 | agreement, give you what's called the status of armed career
- 11 | criminal. Do you understand that?
- 12 A. Yes, I do, your Honor.
- 13 Q. And that has impact on the calculations of the
- 14 | quidelines that we've talked about before. Do you understand
- 15 | that?
- 16 | A. Yes, I do, sir.
- 17 | Q. Okay.
- THE COURT: Ms. Dill, do you have any further
- 19 | questions relating to factual basis?
- 20 MS. DILL: No, your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: All right.
- 22 Ms. Gracey, questions relating to factual basis.
- MS. GRACEY: No, Judge.
- 24 | THE COURT: All right.
- 25 BY THE COURT:

- Q. Mr. Schuett, we've talked about the charge; we've talked about the penalty. We've talked about the rights that everyone has in our system when charged with a crime, and we've talked about the rights that you say you're willing to give up through this plea agreement, and we've talked about my authority to proceed today. So with all of this in mind, it is appropriate now for me to ask you how you plead to this charge of felony in -- excuse me -- felon in possession of a firearm. How do you plead, sir?
- A. Guilty, your Honor.
- 11 | Q. Do you understand the plea you're making?
- 12 | A. Yes, I do, sir.
- 13 | Q. Is -- are you making it voluntarily?
- 14 || A. Yes, I am.

- ||Q.| All right.
  - THE COURT: I find that the defendant is, first of all, competent to tender a plea. I find that the defendant's plea was knowing and intentionally made and made after consultation with counsel. I find that the offense to which the defendant is pleading is supported by an independent basis in fact which contains each of the essential elements of the offense. I will therefore order the preparation of a Presentence Investigation Report, and I will in addition recommend to Judge Ludington that the defendant's plea be accepted, that the defendant be adjudged guilty and have

sentence imposed subject to Judge Ludington's final review 1 and consideration of the plea agreement pursuant to Rule 11(c) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. Ms. Dill, are you satisfied with my compliance with 4 Rule 11? 5 MS. DILL: I am, your Honor. 6 THE COURT: Ms. Gracey, are you satisfied? 7 MS. GRACEY: Yes. 8 9 THE COURT: Very well. Mr. Schuett, the next step of your case is the 10 sentencing process, and that begins with an interview between 11 yourself and a probation officer, with Ms. Gracey present. 12 After that, the officer prepares a Presentence Investigation which will be used by Judge Ludington in his final decision 14 about the sentence. 15 Once that report is completed, two things will 16 You will, first of all, get the sentence for 17 sentencing from Judge Ludington's staff, and secondly, the 18 completion of the report begins a brief period within which 19 you and Ms. Gracey can object to the report, talk about 20 things you think they got wrong and add things you think they 21 missed, but your next court appearance will be your 22 sentencing. Do you understand that? 23

Karin Dains – Court Transcriber

THE COURT: Ms. Dill, then at this stage, anything

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do, your Honor.

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further?
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             MS. DILL:
                        No, your Honor.
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             THE COURT: All right.
             Ms. Gracey, anything further?
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             MS. GRACEY: Just one, your Honor.
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             THE COURT:
                          Sure.
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             MS. GRACEY: I did meet with Mr. Burns from the
7
   Probation Department --
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             THE COURT: Ah.
9
             MS. GRACEY: -- regarding the presentence
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   investigation interview, indicating that I know it's
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   preferable that the interviews be done within seven days.
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   I'm respectfully asking the Court to allow the interview to
   take place on September the 17th.
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             THE COURT: Okay.
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             MS. GRACEY:
                          My schedule will not permit next week,
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   which would be the time frame that the interview should be
17
   conducted. Because originally we were going to handle this
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   matter two weeks ago, which would have opened up this week
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   for me, and because of the distance that I travel and my
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   schedule, I cannot fit it in next week, so I'm respectfully
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   asking the Court to waive those seven days. I know that it's
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   not much of a delay, but I'm respectfully asking to allow me
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   to do it on the 17th.
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             THE COURT: Ms. Dill, do you have any objection to
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that?
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              MS. DILL: No, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: All right.
              In light of the -- the brief delay engendered, I
4
   find your request appropriate, Ms. Gracey, and -- and it is
   granted.
             Please communicate that to Probation as you need
6
7
   to.
              MS. GRACEY: I will.
8
              THE COURT: All right. Very well.
9
              MS. GRACEY: Thank you.
10
              THE COURT: Anything further, ma'am?
11
              MS. GRACEY: Nothing further.
12
13
              THE COURT: Very well.
              The defendant remains in custody pending sentence,
14
   and these proceedings are closed.
15
              Thank you, counsel.
16
              MS. GRACEY: Thank you.
17
              THE CLERK: All rise.
18
              Court is adjourned.
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         (Proceedings concluded at about 10:39 A.M.)
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I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the digital sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter. s/Karin Dains September 10, 2012 Karin Dains, Court Transcriber Date Certified